

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 5, 2003, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the present application has been amended in a manner which is believed to place it into condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

Claims 8-11, 13-18 and 20-49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Schneider et al.* With regard to claim 8 and dependent claims 9-11 and 13-17, claim 8 has been amended to recite that the information describing each network member is searchable by other members on the dynamic virtual network. That feature offers an advantage in that potential partners on the dynamic virtual network can easily locate one another. Since the applied reference does not teach or suggest that limitation, claims 8-11 and 13-17 are not anticipated.

Regarding claim 18 and dependent claims 20-27, those claims include the limitation of qualifying by the network authority the prospective network member. The Office Action alleges that the applied reference meets that limitation, but does not say where and identifies no teaching in the reference that teaches or suggests any such thing. In the absence of such identification of a teaching in the reference, the Office has not met its burden of proof that the claims are anticipated.

The Office Action further alleges that the reference meets the further limitation of claim 20 that the provided information includes at least a first financial datum of the prospective network member. However, the portion of the reference cited for that teaching does not even vaguely suggest any such thing. Instead, that portion of the reference indicates that a user group table includes such information as a group name and description and information such as

whether a user is an administrator or a security officer. Neither the qualifying step nor the financial datum is even remotely suggested. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 departs further from the reference.

Regarding claim 28 and dependent claims 29-35, the Office Action alleges that the broadcasting step is met, but does not say where in the reference that step is met. Therefore, the Office has not met its burden of proof that claims 28-35 are anticipated.

Regarding claim 36 and dependent claims 37-46, each of the transmitting and receiving steps comprises contemporaneously archiving the transmitted information. The portions of the reference cited against claims 36-46 do not teach or suggest that both of the steps comprise contemporaneously archiving the information. Instead, they merely teach that requestor 105 requests data on server 113 and that the requestor and server send messages to each other. That is not at all the same thing as contemporaneously archiving the *transmitted* information as a part of both the transmitting and the receiving steps. Therefore, the applied reference does not anticipate claims 36-46.

Finally, with regard to claim 48 and dependent claim 49, the portion of the reference cited in the Office Action merely teaches that some sort of information may be available and searched on the server 113 and is silent on the source of that information. Therefore, the claims are not anticipated.

Claims 1-7, 12 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schneider et al* in view of *Seid et al*. With regard to claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7, those claims now include a limitation that each of the first network access device and the second network access device stores information about a corresponding one of the first network member and the second network member such that the information is searchable by the other one of the

first network member and the second network member. That limitation is absent from the applied references and therefore would not have resulted from, or otherwise been obvious over, the combination of the two.

Regarding claim 12, since *Seid et al* does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Schneider et al*, the combination of references would not have resulted in, or otherwise rendered obvious, the subject matter of claim 12.

Regarding claim 19, *Seid et al* does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *Schneider et al*. In addition, the portions of *Seid et al* cited against the further limitations of claim 19 do not teach or even remotely suggest verification with third-party information, but instead actually deal with a division of responsibilities between two network control centers. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 19 departs further from the applied references.

Finally, claims 50 and 51 have been added to recite subject matter that departs even further from the applied references.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is not anticipated by *Schneider et al* and would not have been obvious over *Schneider et al* in view of *Seid et al*.

As all grounds of rejection have been addressed and overcome, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is respectfully solicited.

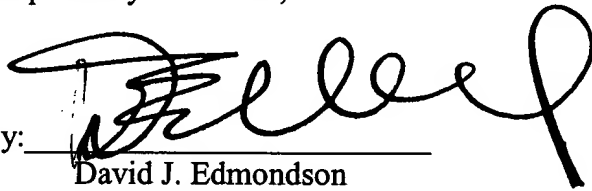
In the event there are any questions relating to this Response or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge any shortage of fees or credit any overpayment thereof to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (114944-00208). In the event that a separate Petition for an Extension of Time is required to render this submission timely and either does not accompany this Response or is insufficient to render this Response timely, the Applicant herewith petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Edmondson', written over a horizontal line.

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